# Nicholas Vadivelu

nicholasvadivelu.com github.com/n2cholas nicholas.vadivelu@gmail.com

# Experience

# **NVIDIA** • Performance Software Engineering Intern

Aug 2020 - Present

Optimizing sparse BERT inference performance for TensorRT in C++, enabling a potential 50% reduction in inference time, memory usage, and power usage for customers

# **Google Brain** • Software Engineering Intern

May 2019 - Aug 2019

- Unlocked K-FAC for over 370,000 users by implementing and open sourcing automatic support for arbitrary neural network architectures and integrating it into the Keras ecosystem
- Enabled simple multi-node, multi-GPU/TPU training for users by incorporating TensorFlow's
  Distribution Strategy and efficient distributed operation placement
- Designed, created, and open-sourced idiomatic, reproducible training recipes for users while carefully considering hyperparameter ranges, baselines, datasets, and models

#### **Uber ATG** · Research Intern

Jan 2020 - Aug 2020

- Improved **object detection by 90%** (AP) and **motion forecasting by 22%** (L2) of a self-driving neural net under realistic positional error, significantly improving safety for future riders
- Wrote a **first author paper** on the learned positional error correction system (under review at CoRL)

#### John Hancock Financial · Data Science Intern

May 2018 - Aug 2018

- Achieved a fraud detection rate of 63% through designing an unsupervised ML model
- Deployed 25 fraud identifying rules in **SQL** that **correctly flagged 100+ out of 20,000+** claims

#### Sunnybrook Research Institute · Software Developer Intern

Jul 2017 - Aug 2017

Improved MRI segmentation accuracy by up to 80% and reduced time to contour MRI scans from ~5 hrs to ~40 mins by implementing techniques including watershed and clustering

# Open Source

**PyTorch Ignite:** Improved performance by **up to 63%** by designing and implementing **async updates for distributed metrics** with tests and documentation

# **Projects**

**Thrive Life Simulator:** Created a **3D ray-casting game engine** from scratch for a dinosaur world simulation game in **Java** with **object-oriented design** and detailed documentation

**PixelShot 300:** Built a one-pixel camera from scratch capable of capturing a 300x300 photo using techniques such as proto-threading in **Arduino** and **Java** 

**Vim Clone:** Recreated the text editor using **object-oriented design** and **C++** best practices, such as implementing the **Model-View-Controller** pattern and extensively using STL functionality

#### Leadership

**Data Science Club Lectures:** Designed and presented workshops about neural networks in **TensorFlow**, machine learning in **scikit-learn**, and data cleaning in **pandas** for **300+ students** 

WATonomous Design Team: Implemented real-time object detection in Tensorflow, OpenCV

# Education

University of Waterloo · Computer Science & Statistics (B. Math)

2017 - 2022

Cumulative GPA: 3.94/4.00 - Dean's List

- Research (Prof. Lin Tan): Proposed and implemented deep learning methods to identify bugs in code
- Research (Prof. Pascal Poupart): Investigated practical second order optimization methods for NNs